

# Baltimore County crime data summary (reflecting data through Sept. 28, 2025)

## Countywide

Compared with this point last year, overall crime is down 8.8%, with violent crime down 5.3% and property crime down 9.2%.

Homicide stands out as a major concern, with 21 incidents so far this year, up 40% over last year. Aggravated assault has remained essentially flat, with 1,472 incidents and less than 1% change. Robbery has fallen significantly, down 15.9% with 519 incidents recorded.

Among property crimes, auto theft has dropped sharply, down 26% with 2,124 incidents. Burglary is down 10.1% with 1,047 incidents. Theft is down 5.1% over last year with 12,054 incidents. However, shoplifting, which represents over half of theft offenses, is up 4.1% with 6,362 incidents recorded so far this year.

## ZIP-code level

### Violent crime - largest changes

Largest increases	Change	Largest decreases	Change
21204 Downtown Towson/West Towson/Ruxton	+24.1%	21224 Southern Dundalk	-55.8%
21228 Catonsville	+12.9%	21209 Pikesville/Falls Road corridor	-43.3%
21208 Pikesville	+12.3%	21229 East Catonsville	-39.0%

### Property crime - largest changes

Largest increases	Change	Largest decreases	Change
21212 South Towson	+24.8%	21206 Overlea/Rosedale	-38.8%
21228 Catonsville	+12.8%	21234 Parkville	-21.4%
21093 Lutherville-Timonium	+11.6%	21227 Halethorpe	-17.4%

### Homicide - highest totals

ZIP code	Location	Total
21207	Gwynn Oak	4
21227	Halethorpe	3
21222	Dundalk	3

### Aggravated assault - highest totals

ZIP code	Location	Total
21222	Dundalk	167
21221	Essex	143
21234	Parkville	109

### Robbery - highest totals

ZIP code	Location	Total
21222	Dundalk	64
21221	Essex	39
21207	Gwynn Oak	36

### Burglary - highest totals

ZIP code	Location	Total
21222	Dundalk	113
21228	Catonsville	86
21237	Rosedale	74

### Auto theft - highest totals

ZIP code	Location	Total
21117	Owings Mills	226
21222	Dundalk	173
21221	Essex	157

### Aggravated assault - extreme changes

Biggest increase	Change	Biggest decrease	Change
21236 Nottingham	+34.1%	21224 Southern Dundalk	-54.8%

### Robbery - extreme changes

Biggest increase	Change	Biggest decrease	Change
21221 Essex	+56.0%	21206 Overlea/Rosedale	-78.6%

## Burglary - extreme changes

Biggest increase	Change	Biggest decrease	Change
21229 East Catonsville	+72.2%	21209 Pikesville/Falls Road corridor	-83.3%

## Auto theft - extreme changes

Biggest increase	Change	Biggest decrease	Change
21212 South Towson	+60.0%	21237 Rosedale	-56.8%

## Suggestions for potential reporting angles based on the Baltimore County data and national crime data

- **The homicide surge demands investigation.** While most crime categories are declining in Baltimore County, homicides have spiked 40% with 21 incidents compared to 15 at this point last year. This sharp increase runs counter to the overall crime decline and merits deeper examination into what's driving these killings, where they're concentrated within the four ZIP codes showing the highest counts (Gwynn Oak, Halethorpe, and Dundalk), and whether they're related to specific circumstances or conflicts.
- **The shoplifting-versus-theft paradox reveals retail crime pressures.** Overall theft is down 5.1%, but shoplifting — which accounts for more than half of all theft offenses — is up 4.1% with 6,362 incidents. This divergence suggests retail establishments are facing heightened challenges even as other forms of theft decline, raising questions about enforcement priorities, retail security measures, and the economic factors driving shoplifting.
- **Geographic disparities show uneven crime distribution.** Downtown Towson/West Towson/Ruxton saw violent crime jump 24.1%, while Southern Dundalk experienced a 55.8% plunge. Similarly dramatic swings appear in property crime, with South Towson up 24.8% while Overlea/Rosedale dropped 38.8%. These stark variations within the same county suggest localized factors — from policing strategies to demographic shifts to economic conditions — that could yield revealing stories about what makes some neighborhoods safer while others struggle.
- **Baltimore County's homicide spike contradicts sharp national decline.** National data from the Council on Criminal Justice shows homicides dropping 17% across sample cities in the first half of 2025, with violent crime falling 10% to 21% across major offense categories. Baltimore County's 40% homicide increase sharply contradicts this positive national trend, suggesting the county faces distinct public safety challenges that warrant investigation into local factors driving lethal violence even as the nation sees significant improvement.
- **County's shoplifting increase bucks national trend.** While Baltimore County experienced a 4.1% rise in shoplifting, national data shows a 12% decrease in shoplifting incidents across sample cities during the first half of 2025. This divergence suggests Baltimore County retailers and law enforcement may be dealing

with different dynamics than their counterparts elsewhere, whether related to reporting practices, retail concentration, economic conditions, or enforcement strategies.